(2) The Officers of departments like the Police, Judicial, Revenue, &c., should be directed to move among the ryots in the interior and secure their co-operation and help in all matters affecting them. In regard to the Police Department, the Member maintained that the inhabitants in the interior of the taluks were suffering a good deal from the culpable indifference of the Police Officers on the spot and suggested that the leading people should be taken into confidence in the detection of Police cases and in the collection of evidence. In the matter of the distribution of civil supplies, the Policemen of the lower grade were more a nuisance to the people than a source of aid. The laudable intention of Government to have the civil supplies purchased at great cost by Government and distributed to the people was not being realised. If the co-operation of the people had been enlisted, there would not have been so much hardship. At least for the future a Committee of the local inhabitants might be appointed to help the Police.

(3) The grievances of the people in respect of the Judicial Department were confined to the irregularities and high-handedness of the lower subordinates in Civil courts.

(4) The manner in which land-tax was being collected was a source of oppression to the people and there were instances in which people had been deprived of their holdings for default in payment of tax. Perhaps in such cases a sympathetic attitude would have been of considerable help. In the disposal of *puduval* and *pokkuvaravu* cases the Village officers were much to be blamed in several respects and they seldom helped people in getting justice. The Member requested that the higher Revenue Officers might be asked to conduct one or two typical cases with the help of the leading local village men, so that the Village officers might know how such enquiries should be held. Though there were distinct and clear instructions laid down in the *Land Revenue Manual* for conducting such enquiries, they were rarely followed by the subordinates of the Revenue department. It was also highly necessary that the higher officials should be instructed to inspect the land records and accounts when on tour and satisfy themselves that the procedure and directions contained in the *Land Revenue Manual* were strictly followed.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

145. Necessity for establishing Taluk and Village Boards to advise Government from time to time as regards the measures to be adopted for safeguarding the interests of the ryots living in the interior parts of the State.

Mr. Thariathu Kunjithomman (Member, Muvattupuzha taluk) submitted that the requirements of the people in the interior of the taluks were not being satisfied, though they were paying tax which was being used for the benefit of the towns people. Ordinarily speaking, there would have been nothing improper, if the towns people had been asked to pay income-tax. The only remedy for removing the grievances of the people in the interior was by constituting Village and Taluk Boards. It took a long time for the central Government to know their wants and take steps to satisfy them. The Taluk Boards should consist of two members from each *pakuthi* and should serve as excellent media between the people and the central Government in the satisfaction of local wants.

He also requested that Panchayat Courts should be established in rural parts with criminal powers. The Magistrate's Courts were situated at long distances and there were, further, delays and other inconveniences of procedure in Magistrate's Courts. The formation of Panchayat Courts with jurisdiction over petty criminal cases would remove many of the difficulties of the people.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

146. Measures to be adopted for relieving the distress caused by famine.

Mr. A. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Changanachery taluk) proposed the following measures.—

(1) Intensive cultivation of paddy should be developed.

(2) A prohibitive export duty should be levied on manures.

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